

Remarks

Amendments

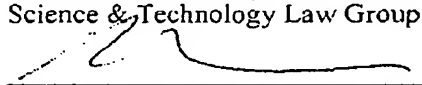
Claims 1 and 5 are amended to further require that the recited Afc1/Rce1-encoding polynucleotide hybridize with a recited human EST (SEQ ID NO:5/6, respectively; see canceled claims 4 and 8). Non-elected claims are canceled.

Election

We elect group I (claims 1-3, 5-7, 9 and 11). We construe this group to encompass the subject matter of claims 1 and 5, and traverse the rejection to the extent it is intended to exclude polynucleotides which comprise SEQ ID NOS:5 or 6. The expression vectors of claims 1 and 5 comprise a polynucleotide encoding an Afc1 or Rce1 polypeptide. Afc1 and Rce1 encoding polypeptides are known to hybridize to, and can comprise SEQ ID NOS:5 & 6, respectively (i.e. SEQ ID NOS: 5 & 6 are ESTs of human Afc1 and Rce1-encoding polynucleotides, respectively; see, specification, p.17, lines 2-7).

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned with any suggestions for amending the claims or further clarifying any of the foregoing. Please charge any required fees, including extension fees, or credit any overcharges relating to this communication to our Dep. Acct. No.19-0750 (order B96-021-6).

Respectfully submitted,
Science & Technology Law Group


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